DC ENTERTAINMENT™

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HE-MAN AND THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE®

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NOV 2012

SAND'S END.

...THAT GOES A LONG WAY TOWARD EXPLAINING NOTHING.

SCULLERY LIL'S

YOU HAVE A BETTER EXPLANATION?

THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD START ENTERTAINING THEORIES.

LIKE *YOUR* "THEORY" THAT WE'VE BOTH BEEN ENCHANTED?

CURSED. ENCHANTMENTS ARE BENEVOLENT.

YOU'RE BEGINNING TO WORRY ME, TEELA.

ARE YOU STILL UPSET ABOUT THE BIRD? WHAT DID YOU CALL IT..?

ZOAR. YES. A LITTLE.

I THINK.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY *ATE* ONE OF THESE. I CAN'T EVEN BRING MYSELF TO POKE IT TOO HARD.

TWO WORDS. GROW. UP.

LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING. YOU'VE LOOKED IN MIRRORS, THIS CAN'T BE NEWS TO YOU. NOW STOP TRYING TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT.

IS THAT WHAT I'M DOING?

THE BIRD... ZOAR'S A MYSTICAL CONSTRUCT OF SOME KIND. THAT MEANS SOMEONE'S CONTROLLING IT, SOMEONE WHO, FOR WHATEVER REASON, LED YOU TO ME.

HUH... SOMEONE'S AWFULLY FULL OF HERSELF. HOW DO YOU KNOW I WAS LED TO YOU?

IT FEELS RIGHT.

YEAH. IT DOES.

AND NOW *BOTH* OF US ARE BEING LED SOMEPLACE ELSE.

UH-HUH.

BY A MYSTICAL CONSTRUCT OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN BEING CONTROLLED BY A PERSON OR PERSONS UNKNOWN.

YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

"I GUESS NOT."

BLOOD TIDE

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NEVER AGAIN.
HONESTLY, HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN THIS WHINY?
NEVER AGAIN.
OKAY. MAYBE I DID NEGLECT TO TELL YOU A FEW OF THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH WE WERE GRANTED PASSAGE.
LIKE THE FACT THAT I'D WORK OFF HALF OF THE FARE?
CYBER-CAMELS ARE A DIME A DOZEN. YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY I GOT AS MUCH FOR IT AS I DID.
THAT MERCHANT DROVE A HARD BARGAIN.
I WISH YOU'D STOP DOING THAT. IT REALLY CREEPS ME.
ALL THE TIME IT WAS PERCHED ON YOUR SHOULDER YOU NEVER--
I WAS... DISTRACTED.
YEAH. TWO SETS OF MEMORIES IN ONE HEAD WILL DO THAT TO A PERSON.
NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT ZOAR HERE SEEMS TO HAVE THE ILLUSION OF WEIGHT. THERE'S SOME PRETTY SOPHISTICATED SORCERY AT WORK HERE.
YEAH... BUT WHOSE?
LESS TALK, MORE SCRUB, SWAB. Y'LL NEVER WORK OFF Y'R FARE AT THIS RATE.
YES, SIR. ON IT, SIR.
NEVER, *EVER* AGAIN.

CASTLE GRAYSKULL.

...MAKING THIS SO MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT NEED BE.

AM I NOT A GRACIOUS HOST? ARE NOT ALL OF YOUR NEEDS SEEN TO?

SHOULD THINK YOUR FREEDOM IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR SUCH MAGNANIMITY ON MY PART.

AND I ASK SO LITTLE OF YOU...

WAS THAT A SMIRK? HMH...WELL DESERVED, I SUPPOSE. WHEN I THINK OF THE YEARS SPENT IN PURSUIT OF HE-MAN'S SWORD, THE YEARS SPENT BELIEVING THE *SWORD* WAS THE POWER SOURCE...

THE KEY, WHATEVER FORM IT MIGHT TAKE... THE KEY TO... THE POWER.

THE POWER STORED WITHIN THE VERY ESSENCE OF CASTLE GRAYSKULL.

...WHEN, IN ACTUALITY, THE SWORD DREW ITS POWER FROM THE *TRUE* SOURCE...

...CASTLE GRAYSKULL.

YOU'VE HARDLY TOUCHED YOUR FOOD. ARE YOU UNWELL?

I COULD, SHOULD YOU WISH IT, HAVE THE GUARDS ESCORT YOU BACK TO YOUR QUARTERS. YES? NO?

YOU *WILL* TALK TO ME, SORCERESS. YOU WILL TELL ME *ALL*.

THE POWER THAT LIES DORMANT WITHIN CASTLE GRAYSKULL WILL BE MINE. I AM SKELETOR. I AM INEVITABLE.

SIGH... I CAN SEE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE YOU FORCE-FED AGAIN.

DO TRY TO HOLD IT DOWN THIS TIME?

COME ON, COME *ON!* WHERE'S ALL OF THAT FANCY SWORD-PLAY?

NO, NO...LIKE *THIS!*

AT LEAST NOT CONSCIOUSLY.

I'M NOT BUYING THAT.

AND YOU'RE WILLING TO KILL ME TO MAKE YOUR POINT?

THRUST!

IT'S LIKE I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU...

...WHAT HAPPENED BACK AT THE OASIS, THAT WASN'T ME.

TANG-G

SO, WHERE'D *YOU* LEARN TO FIGHT LIKE THAT?

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE. SEEMS TO ME I'VE *ALWAYS* KNOWN MY WAY AROUND A SWORD.

WHICH IS, YOU *DO* REALIZE, IMPOSSIBLE. *SOME*ONE HAD TO TEACH--

IF I WANTED YOU DEAD YOU'D BE DEAD.

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER?

ACTUALLY... YES.

DOESN'T MATTER WH'R SHE L'RNED TO HANDLE A BLADE LIKE 'AT, MATTERS THAT SHE *CAN.*

MORE'N CAN BE SAID F'R YOU, SWAB.

THANKS FOR POINTING THAT OUT.

FIGG'R Y' BE AS GOOD UP AGAINST SOMEONE WANTS Y' BLOODED 'N' GONE?

THIS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THOSE THINGS PACING US?

PICKED UP ON THAT, DID Y'?

THERE ARE THINGS PACING US?

SCALE GLINT. THEY'VE BEEN WITH US MOST OF THE DAY.

THAT THEY HAVE. PICKED 'EM UP SOME-TIME LAST NIGHT. NOT GOOD. NOT GOOD AT ALL.

HOW DID YOU EVEN KNOW TO *LOOK?*

PSHT... GAL'S BEEN SCOPIN' OUT HER SURROUNDIN'S SINCE WE TOOKED HER ABOARD.

GOT TH' FEEL OF A COMBAT VET'RAN, SHE DOES.

WHOA, WHOA...LET'S STICK TO THE SUBJECT HERE. WE PICKED UP *WHAT* LAST NIGHT?

SEA BEASTIES. MEANS WE'VE CAUGHT TH' MER-MAN'S ATTENTION. FANCIES TH' SEAS AS HIS OWN, HE DOES.

WE'LL JUST WAIT ON HIM TILL HE TELLS US WHAT HE WANTS 'N' HOPE IT'S SOMETHING WE CAN GIVE.

IF NOT, THEN WE'LL PUT LITTLE MISSY'S SWORD SKILLS TO TH' TEST B'FORE WE DIE.

WHY DIDN'T I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT?

WHY DO I HAVE THE FEELING THIS INVOLVES US?

WHAT GIVES YOU *THAT* FEELING?

KRR-KNNCHK

AH... SO *MUCH* MORE CONVENIENT WHEN THE PREY COMES TO THE PREDATOR.

JUST A HUNCH.

SHOULDN'T WE BE... I DON'T KNOW...DO NG SOMETHING TO DEFEND OURSELVES?!

THE FIRST MOVE IS HIS.

WHAT, CRUSHING THE BOAT D DN'T COUNT?!

THAT YOU HAVE MADE IT THIS FAR...*MOST* IMPRESSIVE.

LET ME GUESS. WE'VE MET?

MANY TIMES. BUT RARELY AS PRINCE ADAM.

PRINCE?!

NEWS TO ME.

EVERY- THING IS NEWS TO YOU!

CAN WE, MAYBE, FOCUS ON THE BIG FISH GUY?

FORGIVE MY DEPLORABLE LACK OF MANNERS. I AM THE OMN POTENCE, FIRST SON OF THE OCEAN LORD, MASTER OF THE DEPTHS, ABSOLUTE MONARCH OF THE SEVEN TIDES, THE SINGULAR WONDER AND GRAND PRESENCE; NAUTICUS AQUARIA, MER-MAN THE FIRST.

CHARMED.

THESE TWO COME WITH ME. YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE DIFFICULT ABOUT THIS, ARE YOU?

YEAH... I PROB'LY AM. TOOK THEIR COIN. RECKON I OWES THEM AS CLOSE T' SAFE PASSAGE AS I CAN GET.

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE US ALIVE!

"YOU'LL NEVER TAKE US ALIVE"!?

IT JUST... SLIPPED OUT.

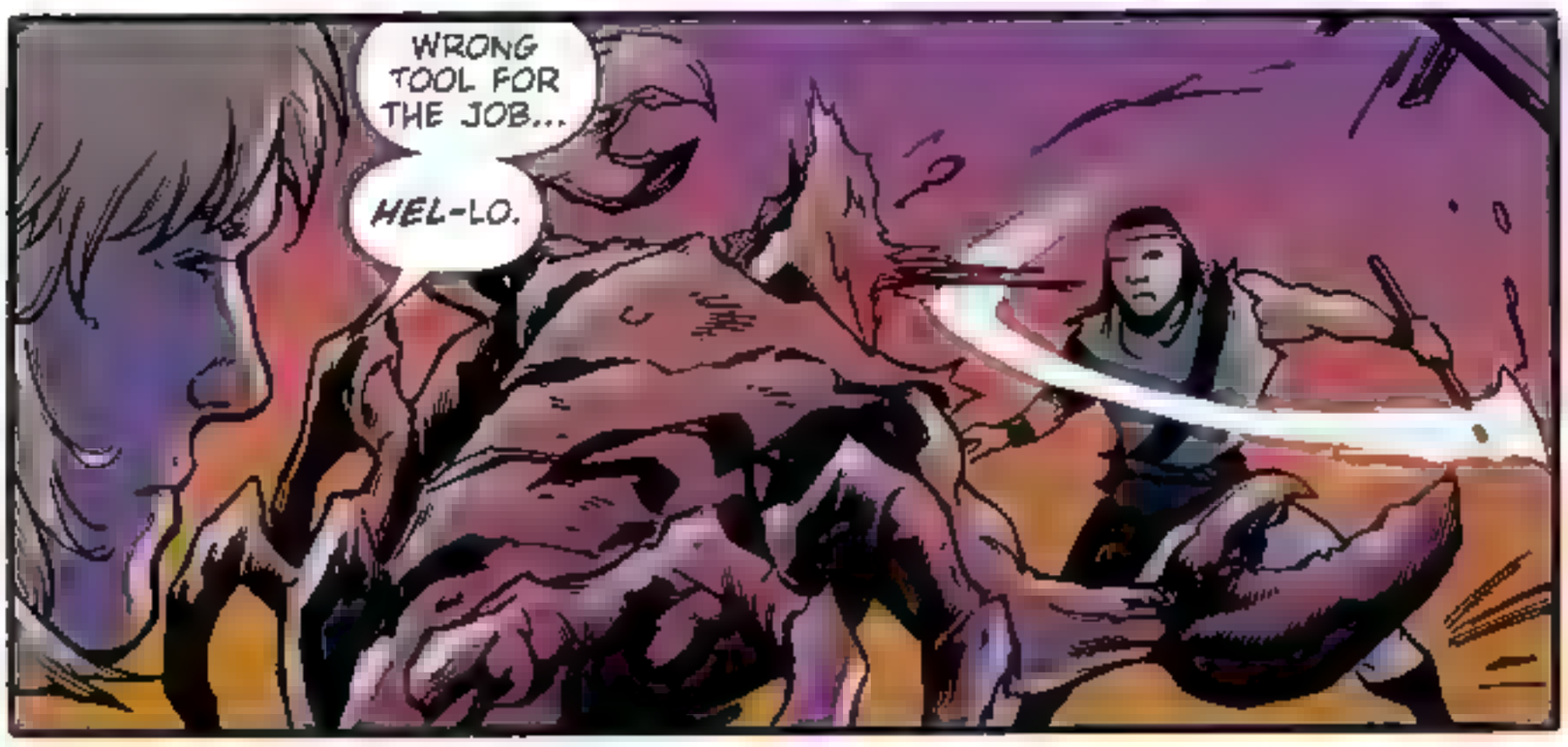
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WAS GOING TO SAY IT UNTIL I DID.

SIGH... PROVE HER WRONG.

THRAKSHK

"LET'S JUST CALL IT LANGUAGE QUITE INAPPROPRIATE FOR A COMIC BOOK AND LET IT GO AT THAT --BOISTEROUS BEN

CHAK!


WRONG TOOL FOR THE JOB...
HEL-LO.

TRADE YA.

NOW THIS I CAN HANDLE. I'VE FELLED GREATER TRUNKS THAN THIS.
BRACE FOR IT!

BRACE FOR... WHAT?!
CHOP!
OH, HE DID NOT!

WHRAK-KA-

KOOM

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, IT *DID* LET GO OF HER.

YOUR CONCERN IS MISPLACED!

THWUD

A *WOODSMAN!* NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT YOUR UNCLE DOES NOT HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR.

SMAK

BOW TO ME, LAND MEAT! ACKNOWLEDGE ME AS MASTER AND I WILL MAKE YOUR DEATH A PAINLESS ONE!

HK!

I THINK I'LL...PASS- *HRNGH!*

RAK

BETTER YOU HAD LIVED THE LIFE YOU WERE GIVEN! WHAT DID YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH BY DEFYING HIS WILL?!

HE-MAN IS *DEAD!*

NNNNGH!

SNAKT

POK

NEVER!

PATHETIC! YOU RAGE YET HAVE NO IDEA *WHY* YOU RAGE!

KNOW THIS, "PRINCE," YOU WILL DIE *NEVER* KNOWING! IF MY VENGEANCE MUST TAKE *THIS* FORM THEN SO BE IT!

WHRUNCH

CH-CHOKE ON IT.

CHK

WHROOMP

DON'T YOU HATE IT WHEN THEY GET CHATTY?

DON'T LOOK SO HAPPY TO SEE ME, I STILL OWE YOU FOR THAT TENTACLE DUMP!

I WAS SAVING YOUR LIFE!

I FOUND OUT I CAN'T SWIM!

TEELA!

OH. THAT MUST HAVE BEEN--

YEAH.

HOW DID YOU--

I CLIMBED THE TENTACLE. DID YOU KNOW THAT THE SHIP IS ON FIRE?

THIS COULD BE A PROBLEM.

READ MY MIND.

FROM BEHIND...

UH-OH.

STRUCK FROM BEHIND...HARDLY IN KEEPING WITH THE CODES OF HONOR YOUR FATHER SO WORSHIPED.

FORTUNATE THAT I AM MADE OF STERNER STUFF THAN LAND MEAT.

MY FATHER SOLD ME INTO SLAVERY!

EXQUISITE! SKELETOR HAS MANAGED TO STRIP YOU OF HONOR AS WELL AS MEMORY, THE LOSS OF ONE LEADING TO THE LOSS OF THE OTHER... ***MOST*** EXQUISITE!

A PITY I HAVE NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE INCLINATION TO FORCE YOU TO CONFRONT THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU HAVE FALLEN.

YOU ***AND*** YOUR BLONDE DOLT.

BUT SKELETOR'S CHARGE WAS QUITE EXPLICIT: "KILL THE PRINCE." AND SINCE I HAVE NO DESIRE TO SHARE IN BEAST-MAN'S NOR TRAPJAW'S... DISCIPLINE...

I *WILL* SEE PRINCE ADAM DEAD BY MY HAND.

A PITY YOUR MEMORIES ARE NOT INTACT. WERE THEY, YOU WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED THAT MY COMMAND OVER MY REALM EXTENDS TO THE *REALM* ITSELF.

!?!

RIGHT. TIME TO GO.

RUN? YOU *RUN?!*

FOOLS! YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO RUN *TO!*

SHKAKA

KOOOMMM

NO LAND-BORN CREATURE COULD HAVE SURVIVED SUCH A BLOW.

SKELETOR WILL BE ***MOST*** PLEASED.

IT IS GOOD.

NEXT ISSUE:
ISLAND OF DOOM!